

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 SAJ-01 /080 W
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R 301015Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4732

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR

CINCUSAFFE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR, CY

SUBJECT: TURKISH LEASERS COMMENT ON THE AEGEAN AND CYPRUS

REF: (A) ANKARA 6638 (DTG 281000Z AUG 76), (B) ANKARA 6536

(DTG 251000Z AUG 76)

1. MILLIYET AUGUST 29 CARRIED A REPORT BASED ON FONMIN
CAGLAYANGIL'S MEETING WITH NEWSMEN UPON HIS RETURN TO
ANKARA EVENING OF AUGUST 27. THE MILLIYET STORY WAS
VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO THE TERECUMAN STORY THE PREVIOUS
DAY IN THAT IT QUOTED CAGLAYANGIL AS SAYING THAT GREECE
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MUST WITHDRAW ITS APPLICATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL

COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ) BEFORE BILATERAL TALKS COULD BEGIN (REF A). THE SAME ISSUE OF MILLIYET ALSO CARRIED AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH OPPOSITION LEADER BULENT ECEVIT IN WHICH LATTER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT SHOULD WASTE NO TIME IN BEGINNING BILATERAL TALKS WITH GREECE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING THE TALKS STARTED WOULD BE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE TO WITHDRAW ITS APPLICATION TO THE ICJ. JOE ALEX MORRIS OF THE LOS ANGELES TIMES GAVE US A COPY OF AN INTERVIEW HE HAD WITH PRIMIN DEMIREL AUGUST 29. IN THAT INTERVIEW DEMIREL ASSERTED CATEGORICALLY THAT GREECE MUST WITHDRAW ITS APPLICATION TO THE ICJ BEFORE BILATERAL TALKS CAN BEGIN. MORRIS QUOTES DEMIREL SAYING "IF YOU ARE GOING TO TALK, YOU SHOULD NOT GO TO COURT."

2. TERCUMAN AUGUST 30 CARRIES AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL. THE INTERVIEW DEALS WITH SEVERAL SUBJECTS INCLUDING THE AEGEAN QUESTION. THE QUESTION OF GREEK WITHDRAWAL OF ITS APPLICATION TO THE ICJ DOES NOT COME UP IN THE INTERVIEW, HOWEVER.

3. CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ERBAKAN, WHO IS CURRENTLY TOURING EASTERN TURKEY, MET WITH REPORTERS AUGUST 29. ASKED ABOUT THE GREEK-TURKISH NEGOTIATIONS, ERBAKAN SAID THAT IF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GREEKS DO NOT RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, TURKEY WOULD UNILATERALLY ASSERT HER RIGHTS IN THE AEGEAN.

4. ERBAKAN, FOLLOWING UP ON RECENT STATEMENTS OF FELLOW PARTY MEMBER AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR ASILTURK (REF B), TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE THOUGHT IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE TURKISH FEDERATED STATE OF CYPRUS TO DECLARE ITS INDEPENDENCE. HE ALSO SAID THAT OCTOBER 29 (TURKISH REPUBLIC DAY) WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE TIME FOR SUCH ACTION. IN THE ABOVE-MENTIONED INTERVIEW WITH MORRIS, PRIMIN DEMIREL SAID TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH' STATEMENTS ABOUT A UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ARE NOT RPT NOT GOT POLICY. DEMIREL SOFTENED HIS REJECTION OF DENKTASH' LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATEMENT, HOWEVER, BY SAYING "WHAT DENKTASH IS TRYING TO SAY IS THAT IF THE GREEKS DON'T WANT TO COME TO A SOLUTION, THERE IS ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE." DEMIREL ALSO CHARACTERIZED THE ATTITUDE OF THE U.S. CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AS "PARTIAL" AND SAID A SOLUTION CAN NOT BE REACHED UNTIL THAT PARTIALITY CEASES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ANKARA06648
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760329-1248
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976088/aaaaagsf.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ANKARA 6638, 76 ANKARA 6536
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH LEASERS COMMENT ON THE AEGEAN AND CYPRUS
TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR, CY, (CAGLAYANGIL, IHSAN), (ECEVIT, BULENT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006